Sew along with

BY HAND LONDON

Join us for our two-part circle-skirt dress sew along with **By Hand London**! This issue, we show you how to measure up, cut out your fabric and construct the bodice.

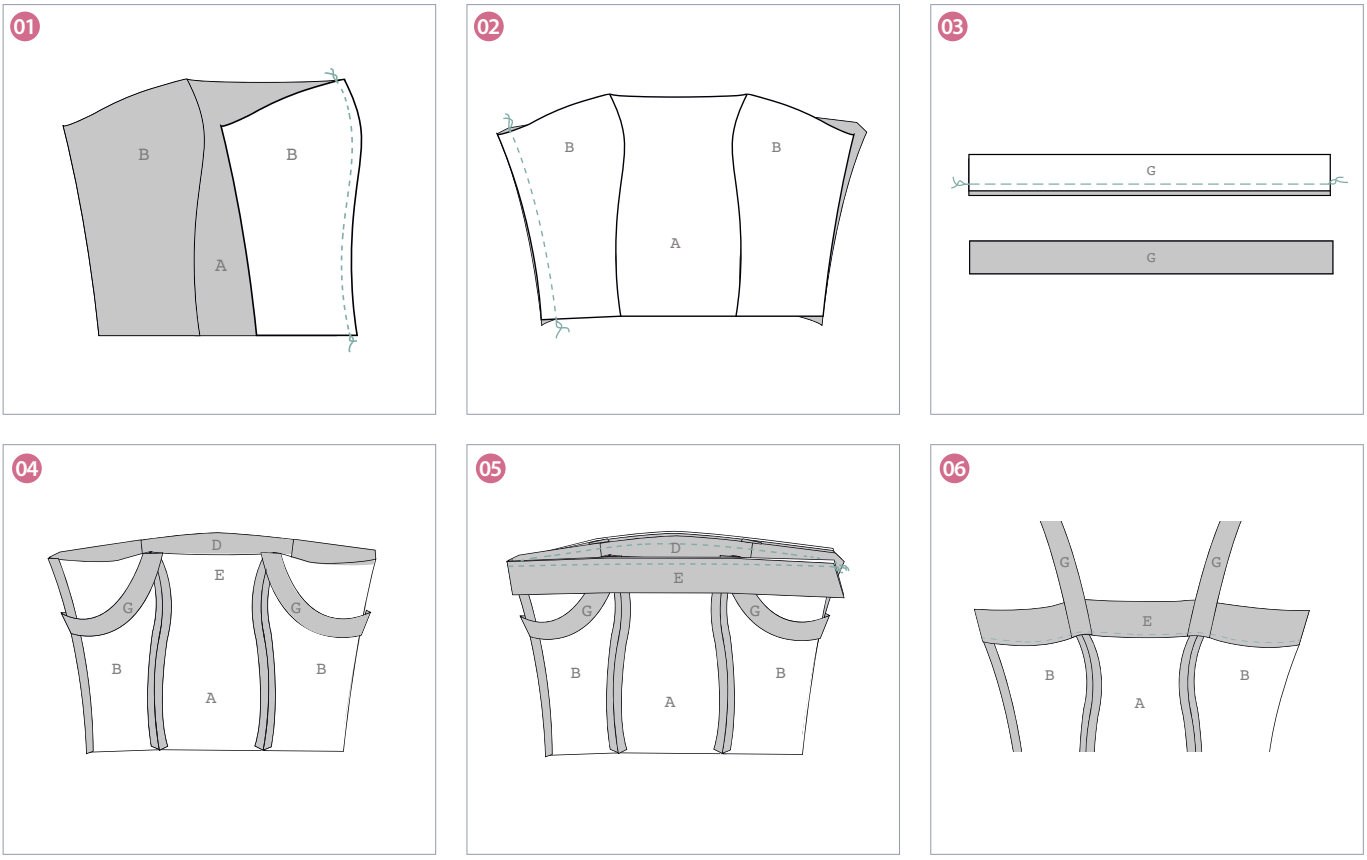
NEW SERIES
2 PARTS

PART ONE

- Measure accurately to find your size
- Construct a fitted dress bodice
- Make and attach shoulder straps

PSST:

Get involved in the sew along and share your finished makes using #simplysewingmag.



YOU WILL NEED

- Fabric: 2.5m (2¾yds) for all sizes (based on fabric 150cm (60in) wide)
- Invisible zip: 45cm (18in)
- Zip foot
- Invisible zip foot
- Overlocker (optional)
- Tracing paper
- Tailor's chalk
- Basic sewing kit

NOTES

- You will find the pattern pieces needed to make this project on the pull-out pattern sheet provided with this issue.
- Use a 1.5cm (⅝in) seam allowance throughout unless otherwise stated.
- Press all seams open and darts towards the centre back.
- Finish raw edges with an overlocker or machine zigzag for a neat finish.

FABRIC USED

- Hanako Liberty corduroy, www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk

"Aloha! What we love most about sewing at By Hand London HQ is the power it gives you over your personal style. But there's more! The other thing we really enjoy is the fact that we're developing a skill," the BHL design-trio explain. "Sewing is the perfect creative outlet. The first installment of our two-part circle-skirt dress sew along outlines the simple steps to follow when starting a new sewing project, including choosing your fabric and measuring up. Then we'll get to work assembling the bodice! Next month, we'll show you how to add the zip fastening, make the skirt and finish the dress," they add. Let's get started!

MEASURING UP

Take your measurements and choose your size using the measuring guide and sizing chart on page 39. If it looks like you are between sizes, the best thing to do is go up a size.

Making up a toile in scrap fabric before cutting into your main fabric is a good idea if you're not sure about the sizing.

CHOOSING YOUR FABRIC

Cotton poplin, quilting cotton, twill, drill, linen, chambray, denim, silk habotai, silk crêpe de chine, cotton silk, viscose, corduroy, wool tweed, wool crêpe and flannel are all possible fabric choices for this project. A wide variety of woven fabrics will work, but bear in mind that the fabric you choose will have very different and dramatic effects on the look of your dress, so think about the style you want.

GETTING STARTED

Find a quiet room and a big table. A sewist's gotta concentrate, especially when getting ready to cut fabric! Check you've got all the tools and materials you need. There's nothing worse than getting excited to start a project and then realising you're about to run out of thread or you forgot to get a zip.

CUTTING OUT

Step one Trace around the pattern pieces on the pull-out pattern sheet onto tracing paper, following the lines for your size and transferring all markings.

Step two Lay your pattern pieces onto your fabric according to the cutting layout on page 39. Choose the right layout for your fabric width. Begin by laying down the pieces that need to be cut on the fold, and pay attention

SIZE CHART

BODY MEASUREMENTS

UK SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
BUST	cm	83.75	86.25	88.75	94	99	106.5	114.25
	in	33	34	35	37	39	42	45
WAIST	cm	66	68.5	71	76	81.25	89	96.5
	in	26	27	28	30	32	35	38
HIP	cm	91.5	94	96.5	101.5	106.5	114.25	122
	in	36	37	38	40	42	45	48

FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS

UK SIZE		8	10	12	14	16	18	20
BUST	cm	85.25	87.75	90.25	95.5	100.5	108	115.75
	in	33½	34½	35½	37½	39½	42½	45½
WAIST	cm	68.5	71	73.5	78.5	83.75	91.5	99
	in	26½	27½	28½	30½	32½	35½	38½
SKIRT LENGTH	cm	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
	in	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

to the grainline. Cut out, making sure to snip all notches then transfer markings onto the fabric with tailor's chalk.

ASSEMBLING THE BODICE

Step one With right sides (RS) together, join the side front panels (B) to the centre front (A), matching notches and gently easing in the slight fullness at the curves. 01

Step two Clip notches in the seam allowance to help the seam lie flatter, press open and finish the seam. Repeat to join the side back panels (C) to the centre back (D).

Step three With RS together, join the assembled bodice front to the assembled bodice back at the right hand side seam. Press open and finish. 02

Step four Leave the left-hand side seam open ready to insert the invisible zip later on, but it's a good idea to finish the seam allowance now as it'll be fiddly to do it once the zip has been inserted. If you're using an overlocker, be careful not to trim away the excess.

ATTACHING THE STRAPS

Step one Fold the shoulder straps (G) in half lengthways, RS together, and stitch the long raw edge, using a 1cm (⅜in) seam allowance. Turn RS out and press. 03

Step two Pin the ends of your straps to the wrong side (WS) of your bodice, matching the centre of the strap with the panel seams and making sure that each strap goes from front to back without twisting. Tack these into place using a 1cm (⅜in) seam allowance. 04

JOINING THE NECKLINE BAND

Step one Join the front neck band (E) and back neckband (F) pieces, RS together, at the right hand short edge. Trim the excess seam allowance, carefully notch the V-shaped point and press the seam open.

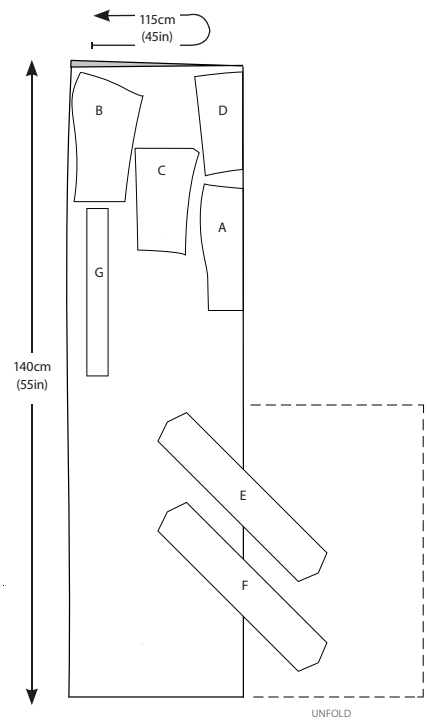
Step two Fold your neckline band in half lengthways, WS together and press.

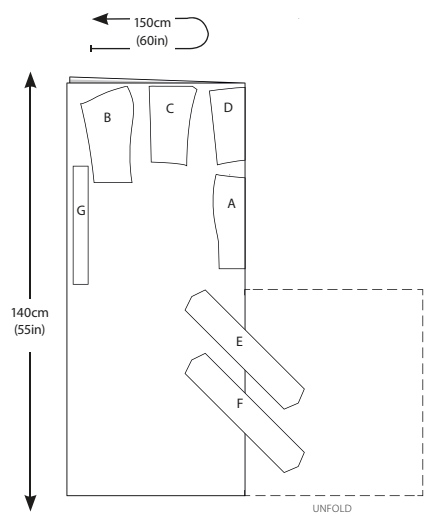
Step three Pin the band to the WS of the bodice's neckline, sandwiching the shoulder straps between them and matching all seams and notches, then stitch. 05

Step four Press the seam allowance down, the shoulder straps up and understitch the seam allowance, leaving the straps free. 06

Step five Turn the neckline band out to the front of the bodice and press. That's it for now! Lookout for part-two in issue 13.

CUTTING LAYOUT





PATTERN KEY

A Centre Front
B Side Front
C Side Back
D Centre Back
E Front Neck Band
F Back Neck Band
G Strap

Right Side
Wrong side

NEXT MONTH

Sew along with BY HAND LONDON

PART TWO

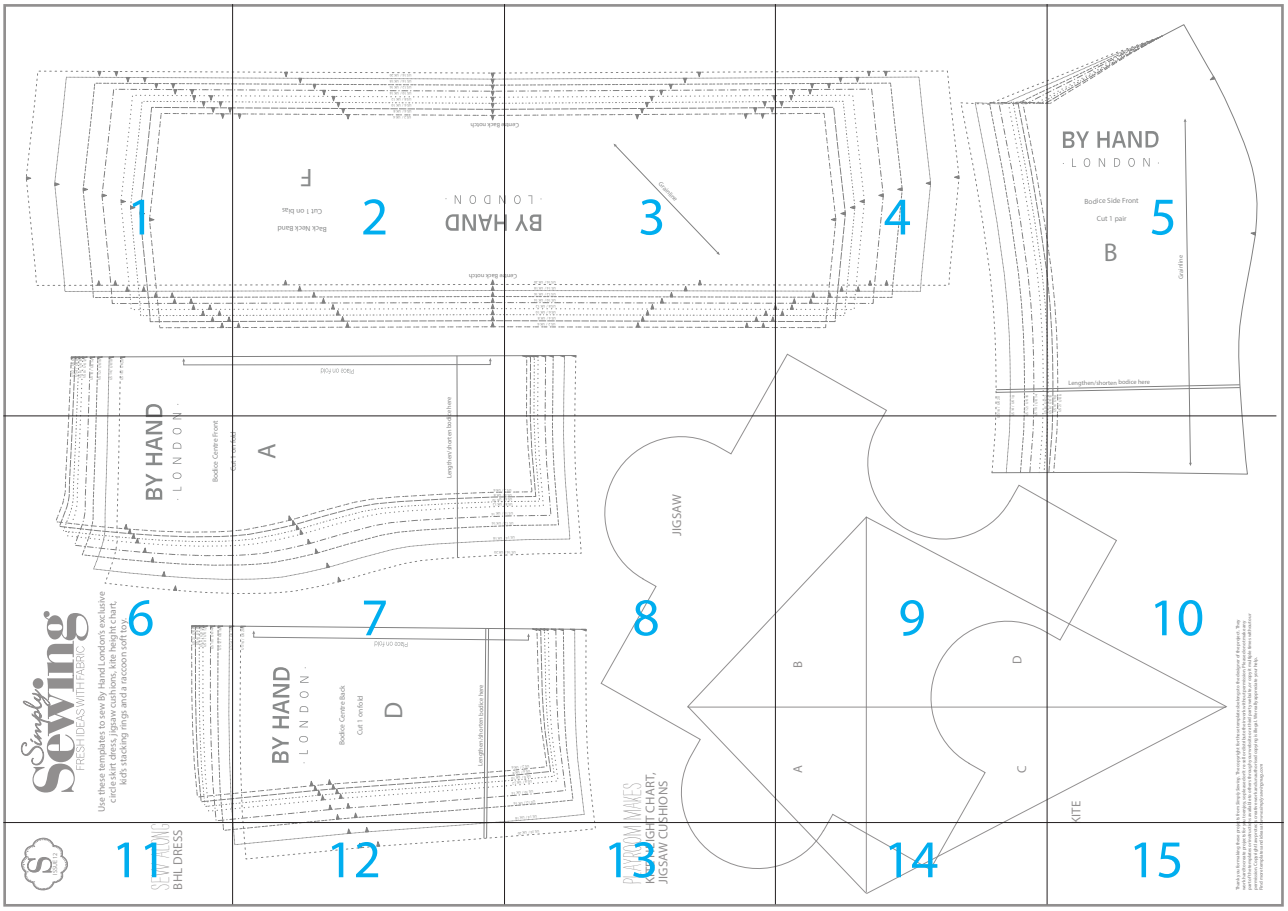
- Make your own circle skirt
- Insert an invisible zip
- Sew a neat hem

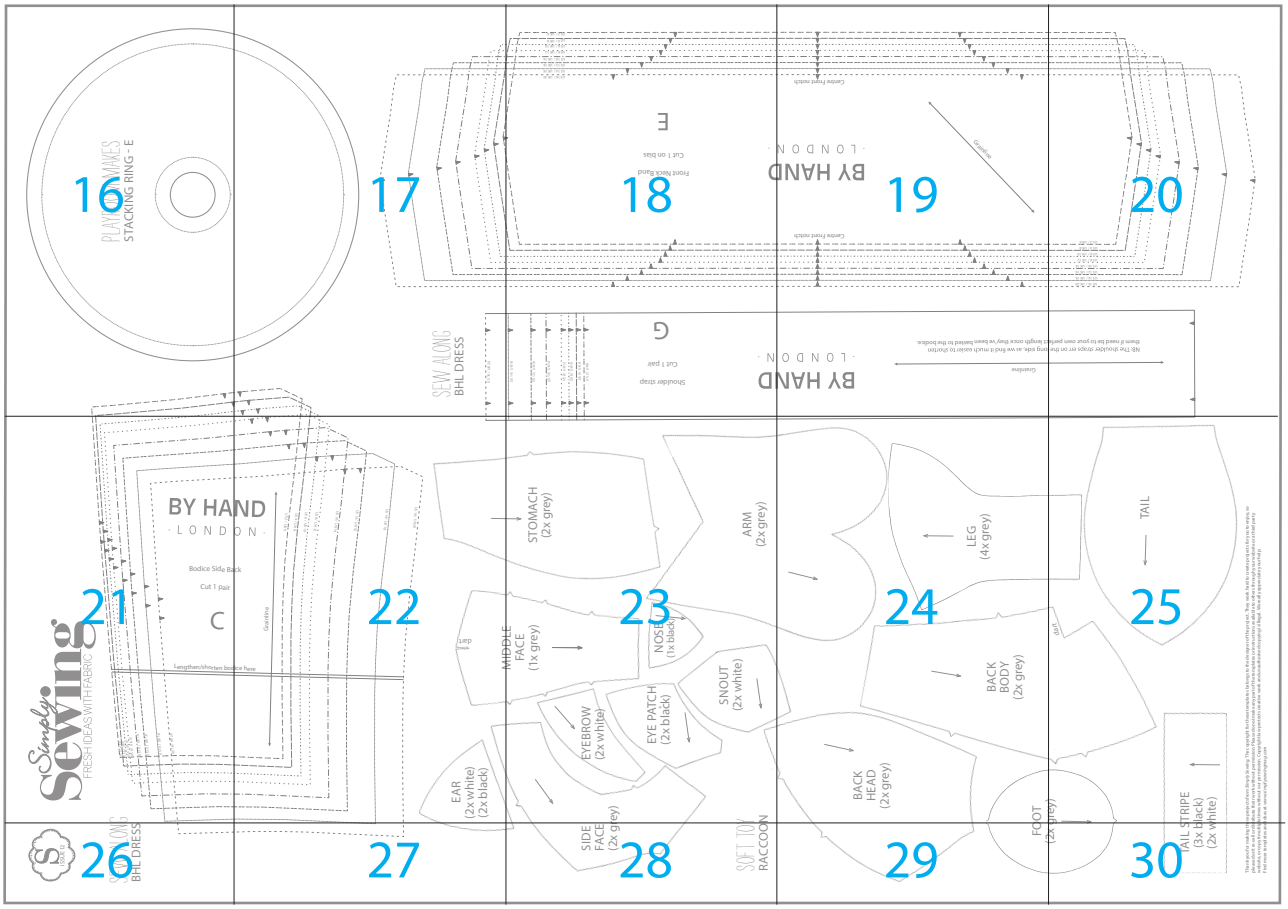
PSST:

Don't miss part two of By Hand London's sew along in issue 13, on sale 28th January.

Simply Sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

HOW TO PRINT THIS PATTERN
Print out this 30-page PDF on to A4 paper. Trim away the shaded border from each page and position the pages as below to assemble the pattern…





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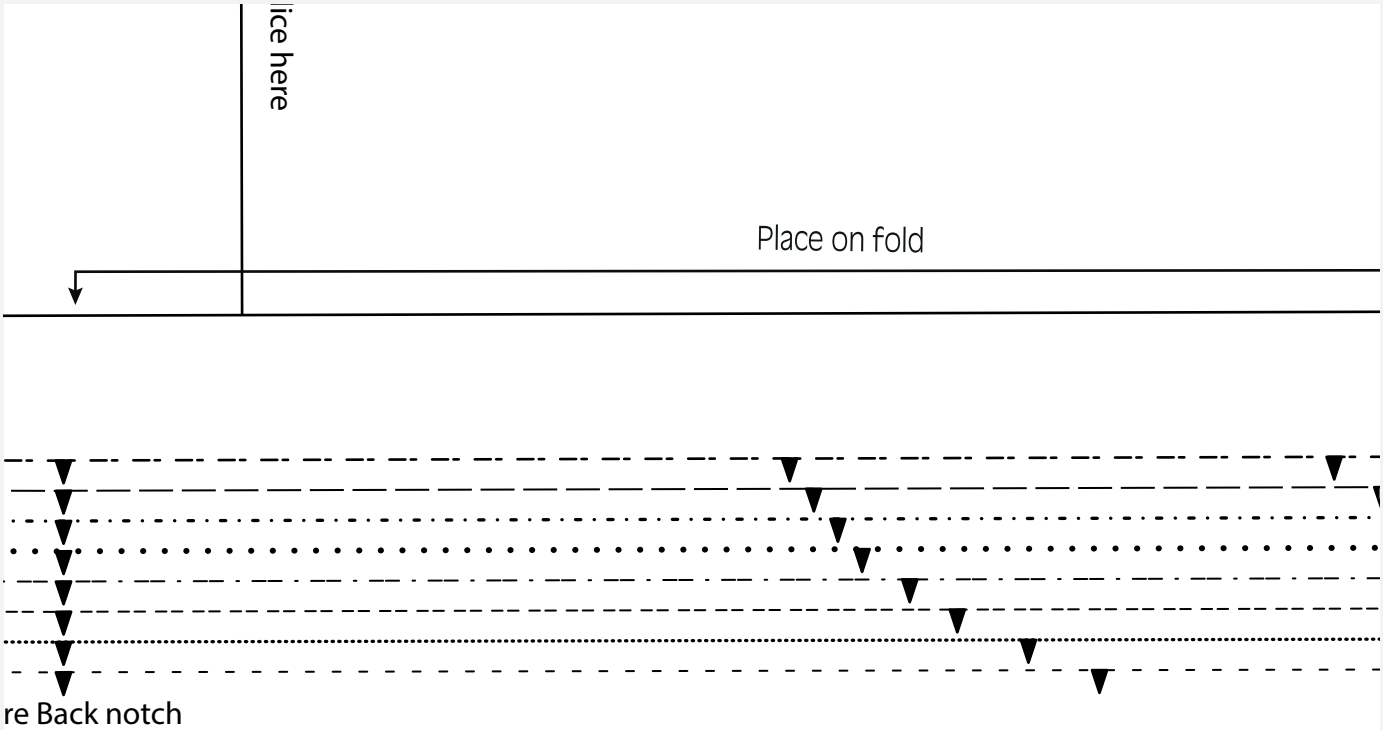


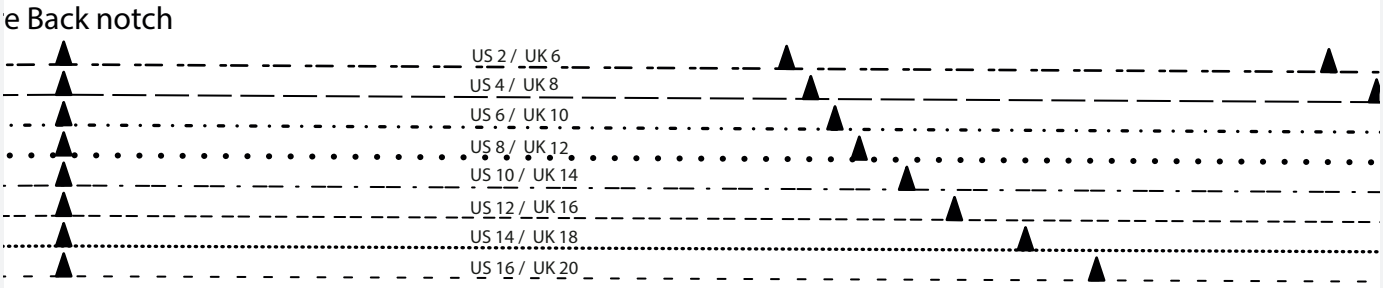
HAND

N D O N ·

Back Neck Band

Cut 1 on bias

F



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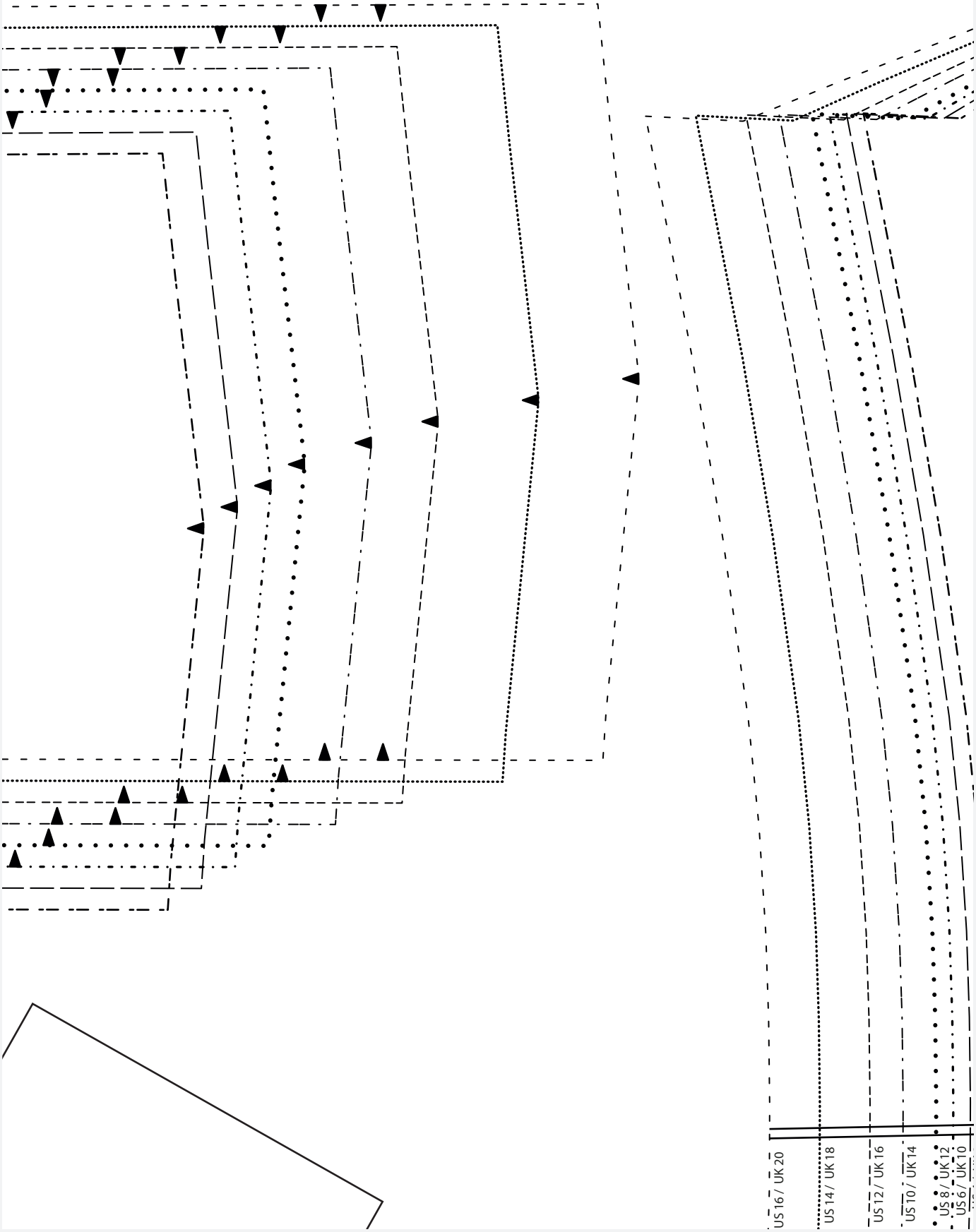
Grainline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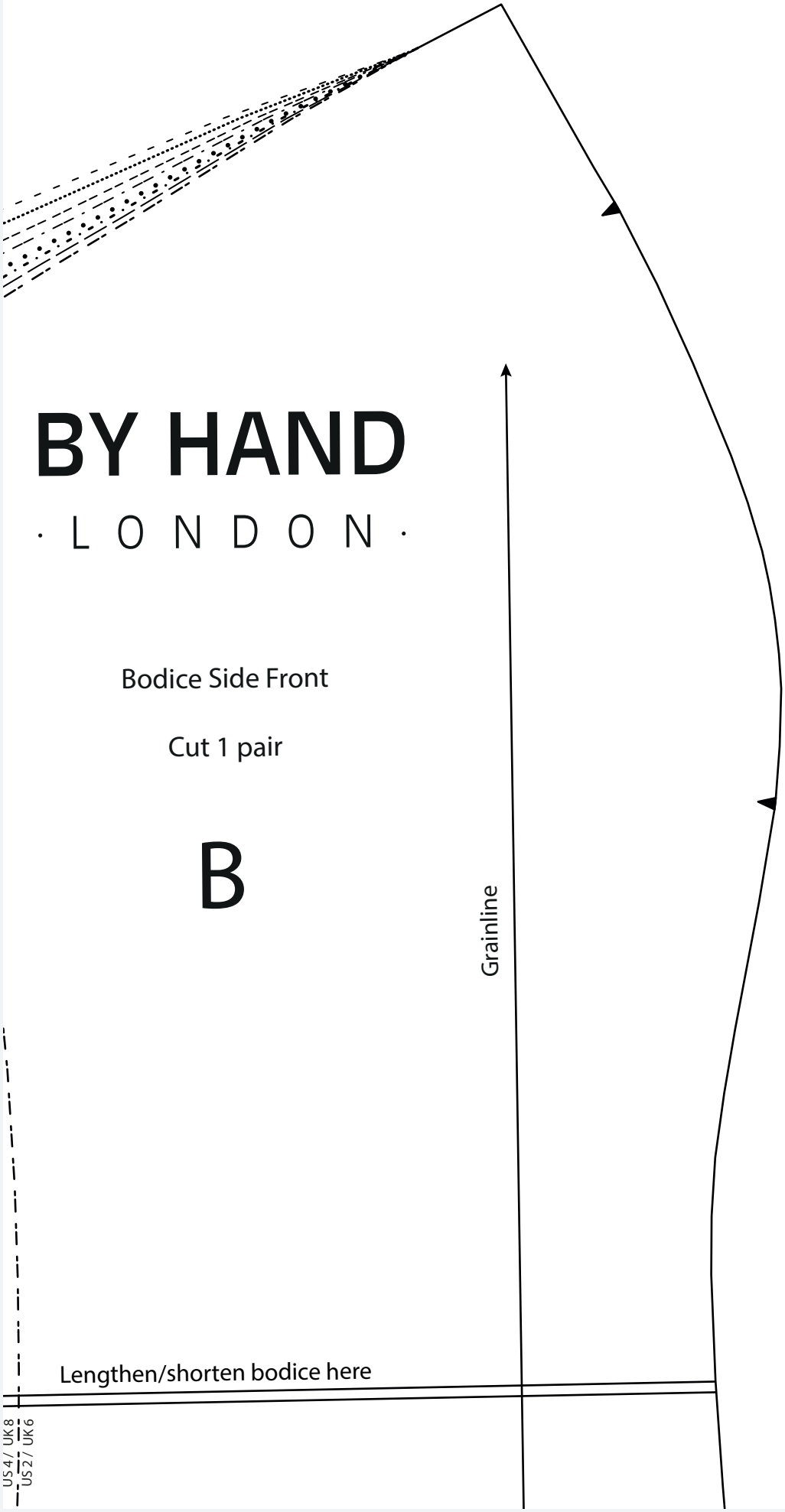


BY HAND

· L O N D O N ·

Bodice Side Front

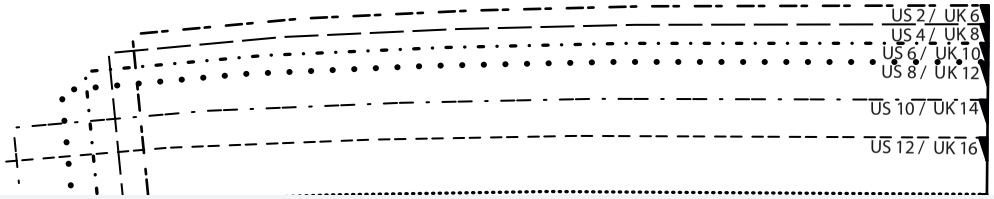
Cut 1 pair

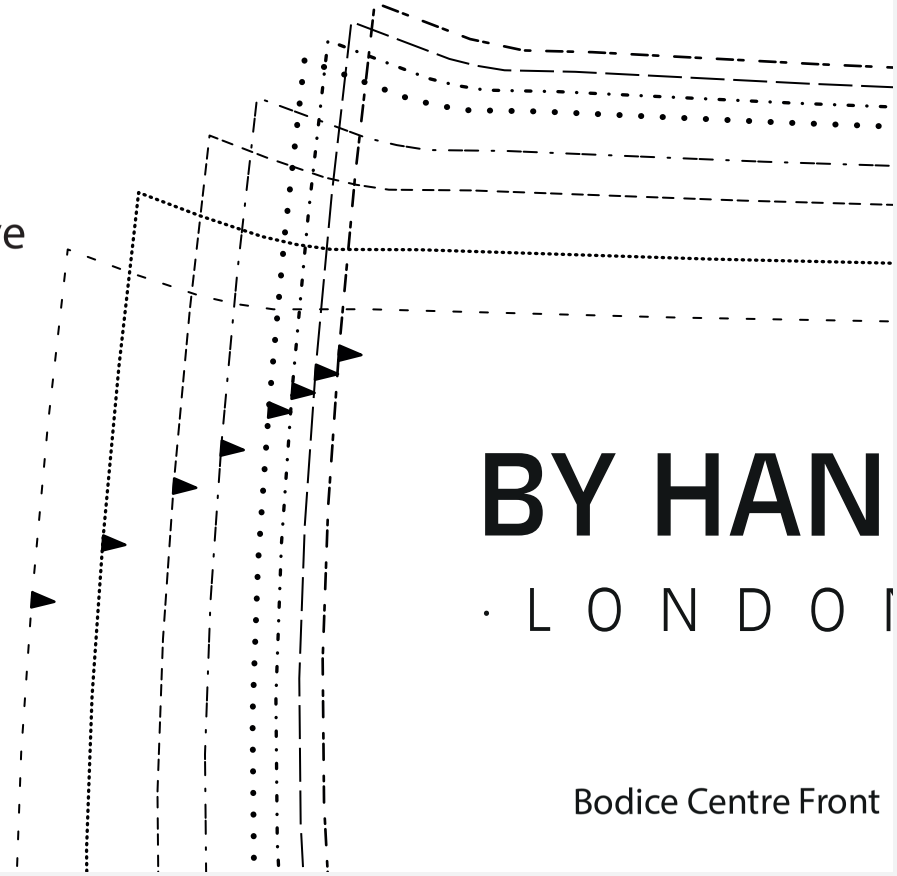
B

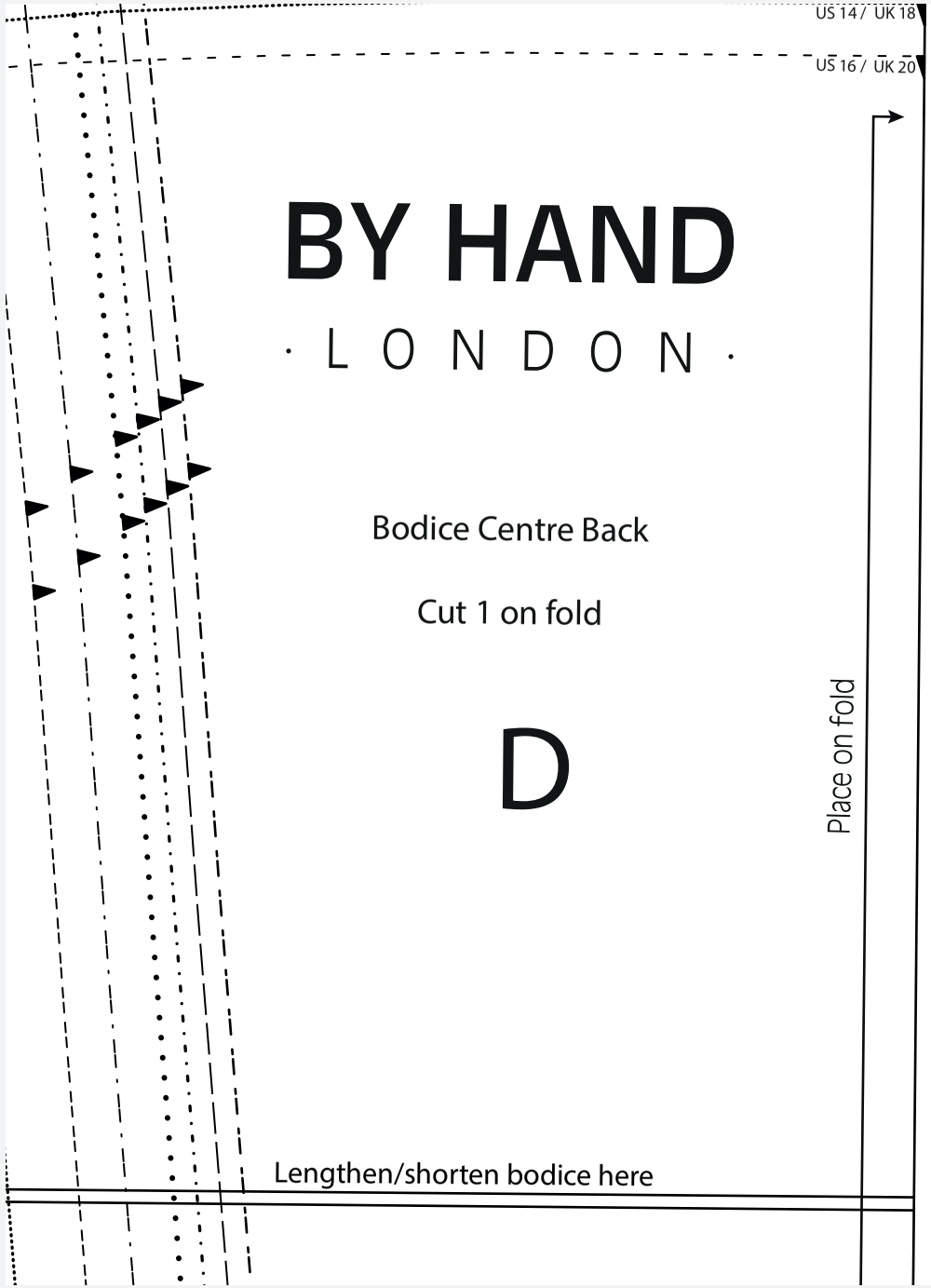
Simply Sewing

FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC

Use these templates to sew By Hand London's exclusive circle skirt dress, jigsaw cushions, kite height chart, kid's stacking rings and a raccoon soft toy.



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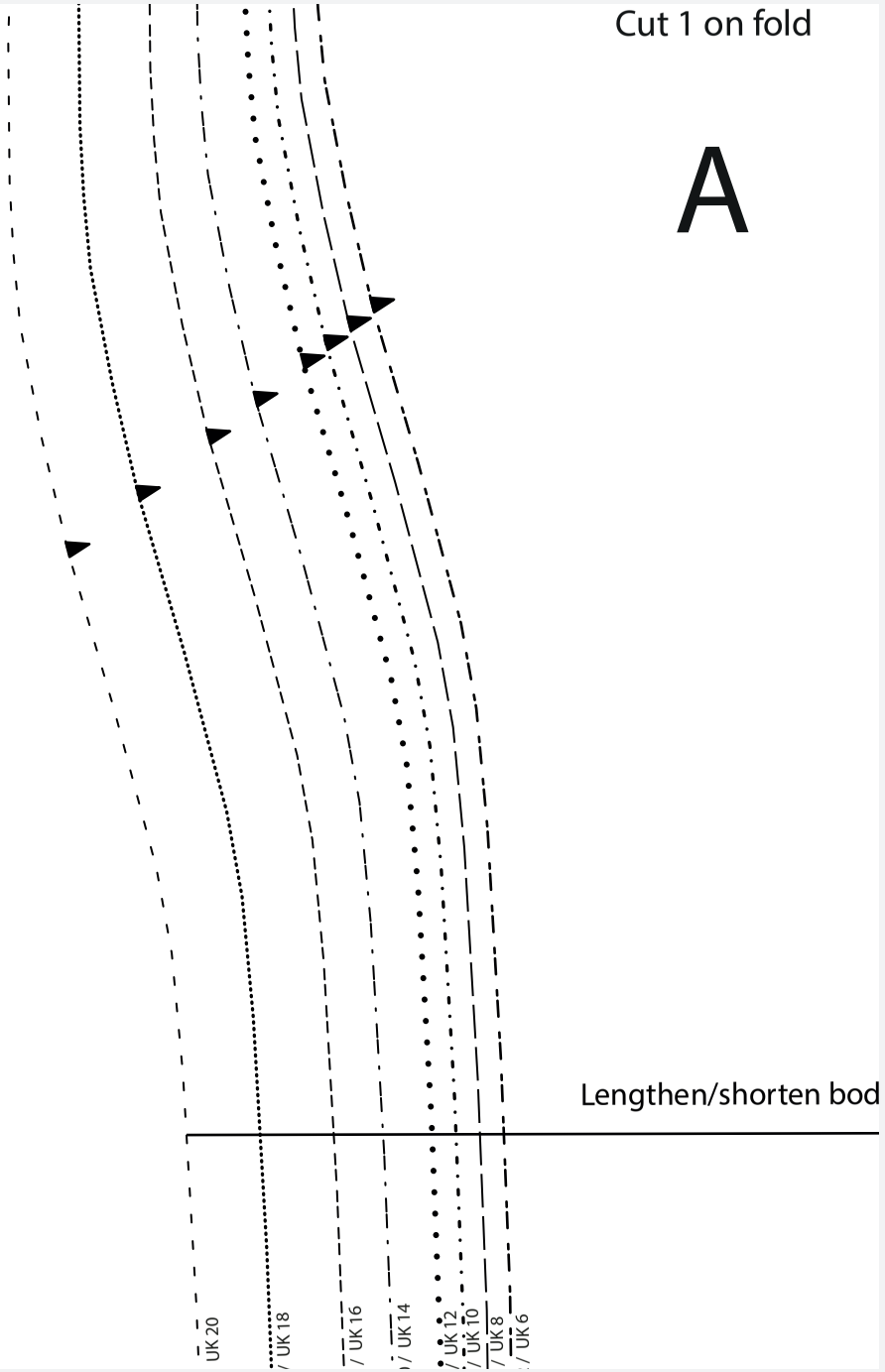
BY HAND
· L O N D O N ·
Bodice Centre Back
Cut 1 on fold
D
Place on fold
Lengthen/shorten bodice here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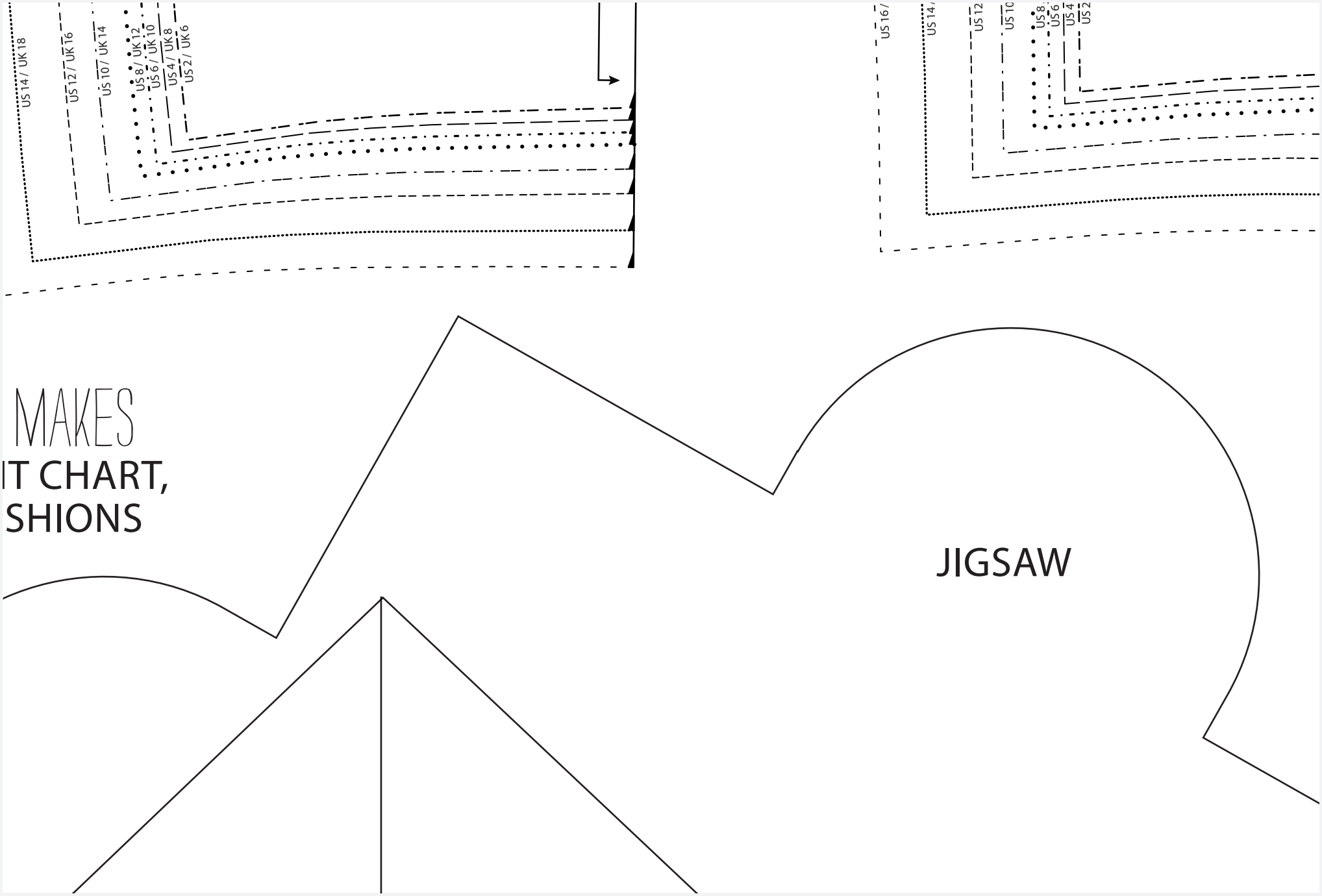
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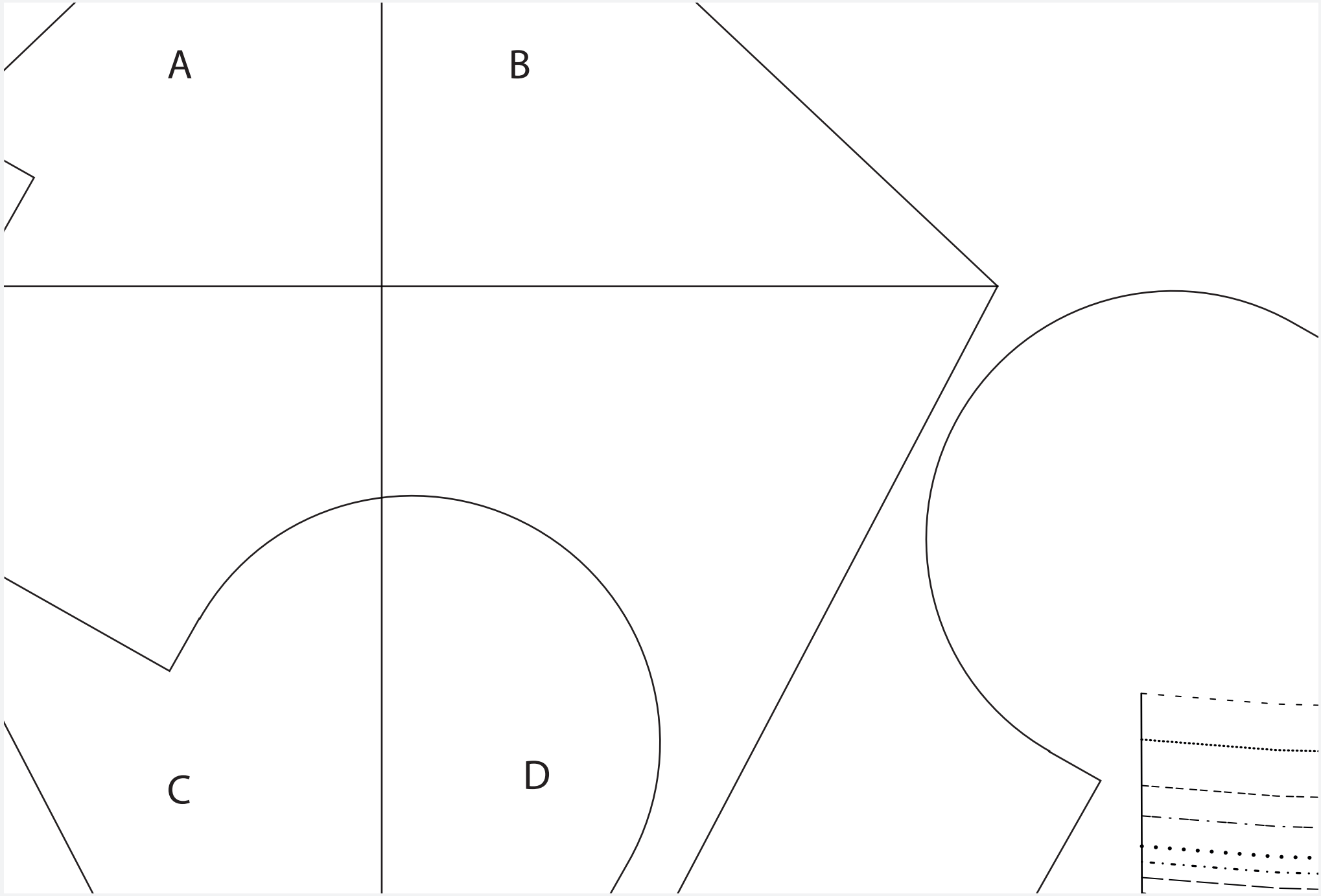
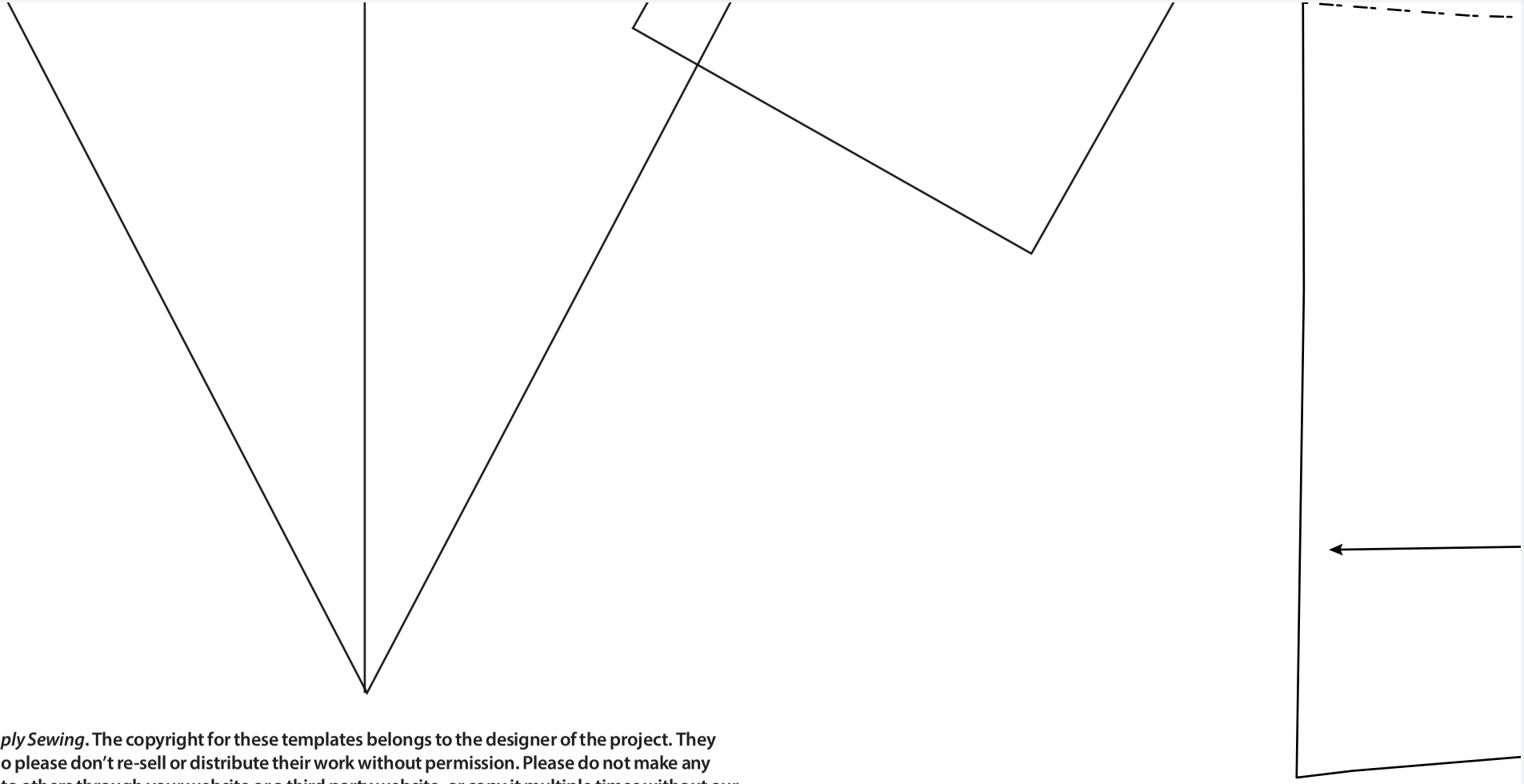

A
B
C
D

KITE



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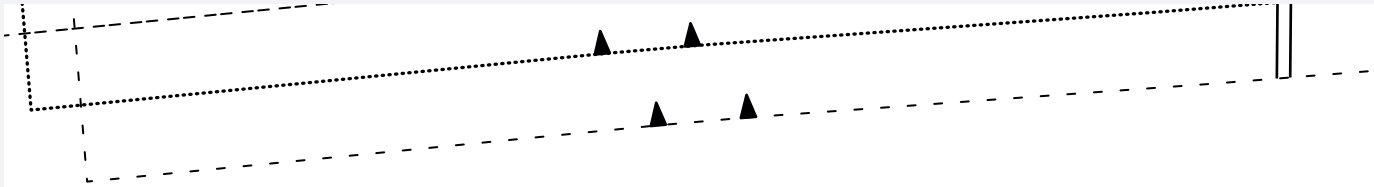
BHL DRESS



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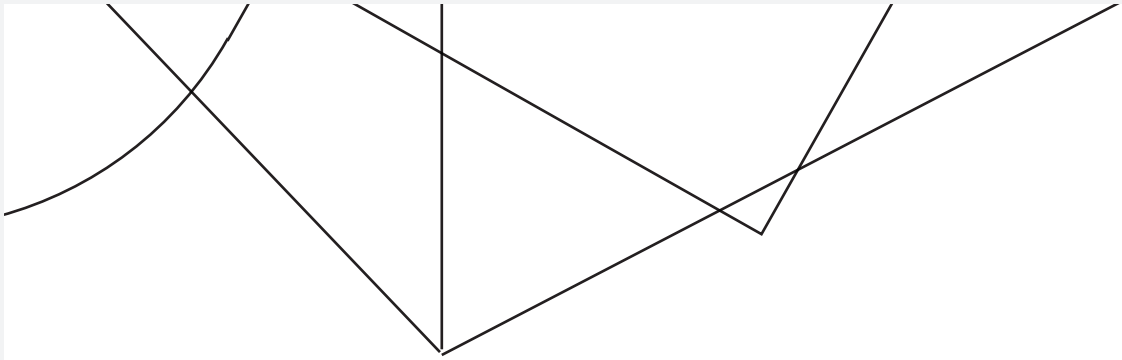

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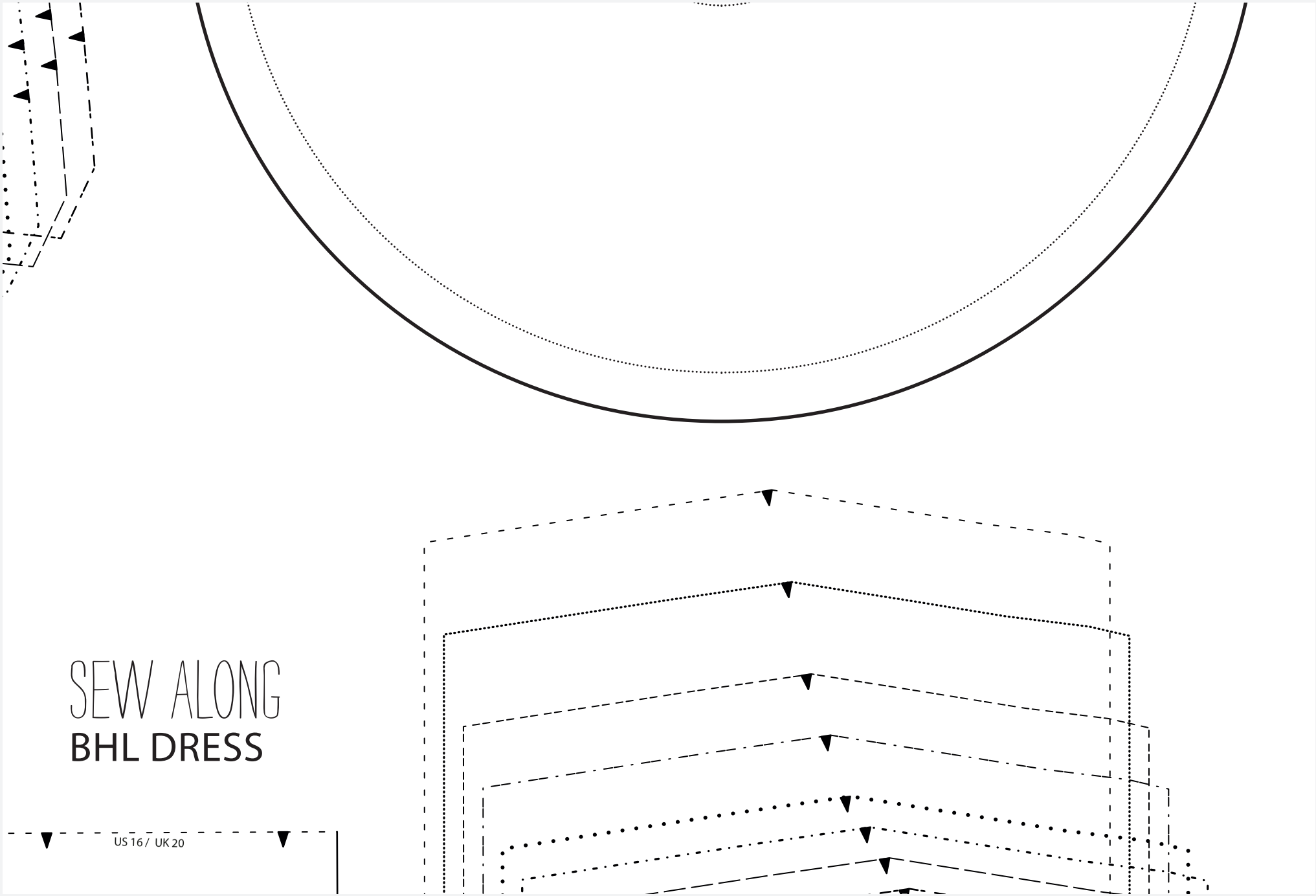
PLAYROOM MAKES
STACKING RING - E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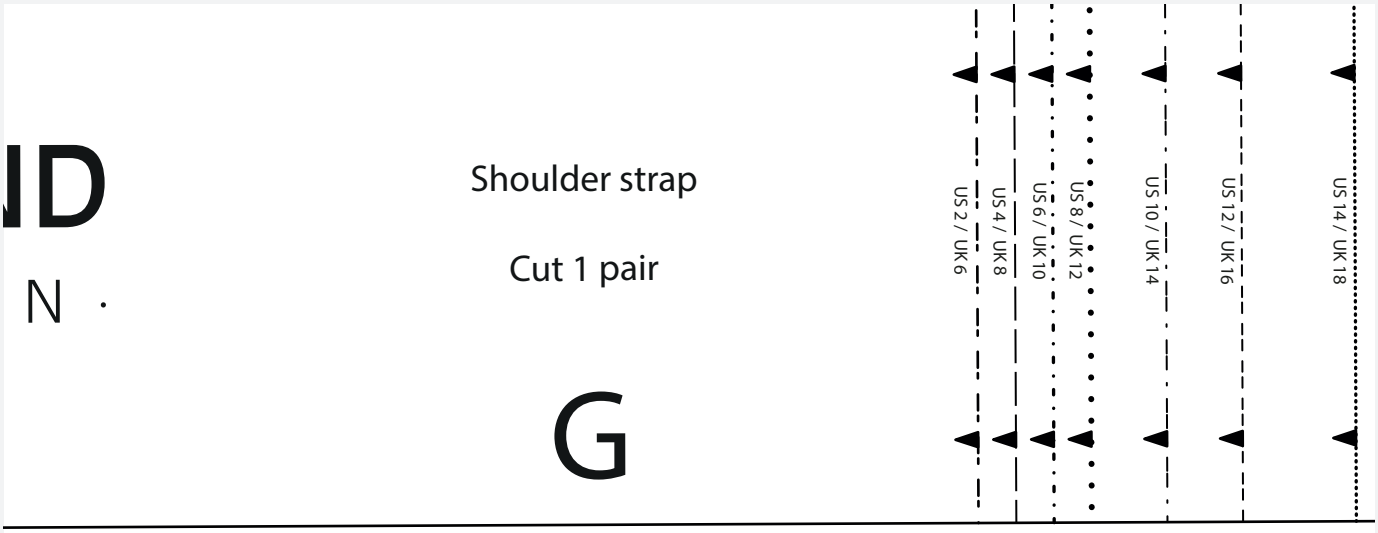
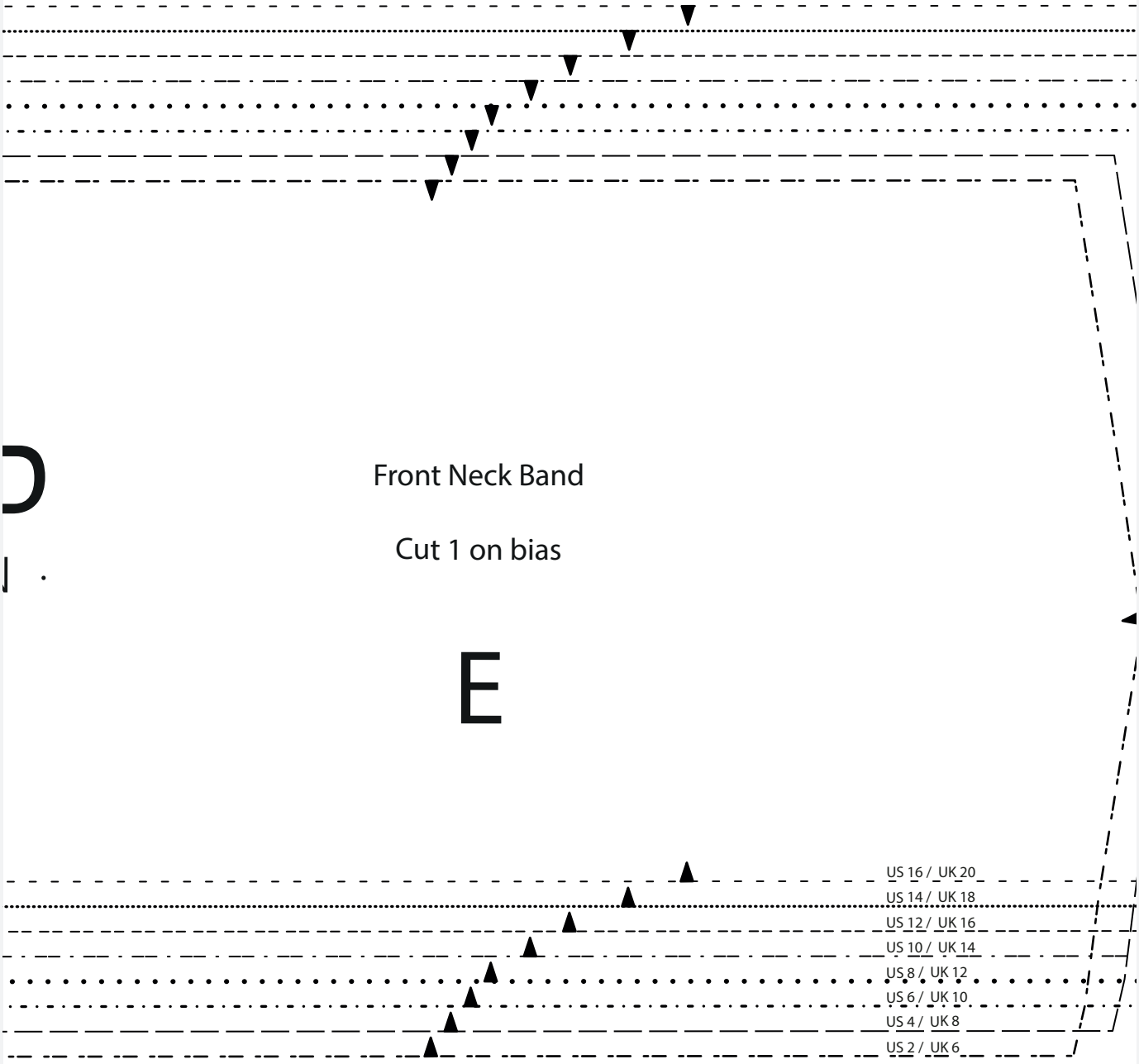


Shoulder strap

Cut 1 pair

G



Front Neck Band

Cut 1 on bias

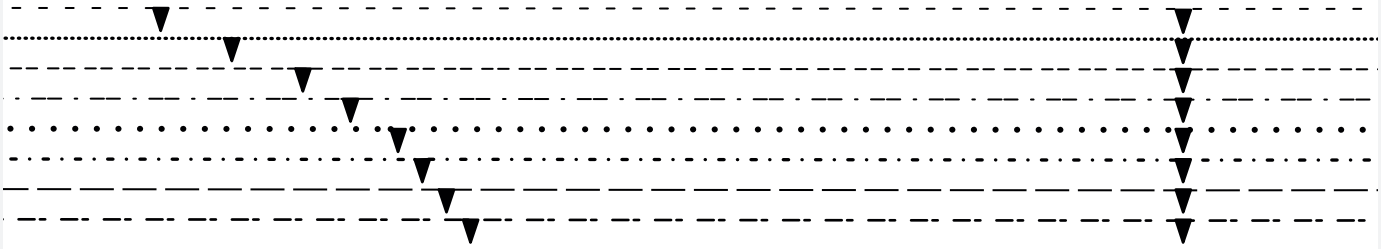
E

BY HAN

· L O N D O

Grainline

e long side, as we find it much easier to shorten
fect length once they've been basted to the bodice.



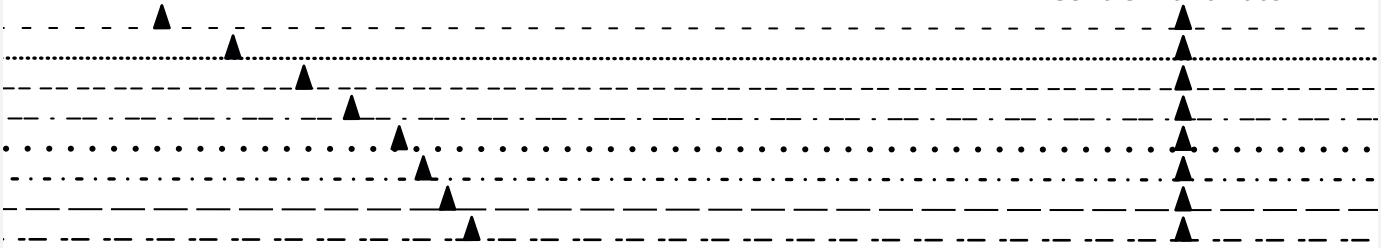
Centre Front notch

BY HANI

· L O N D O N

Grainline

Centre Front notch



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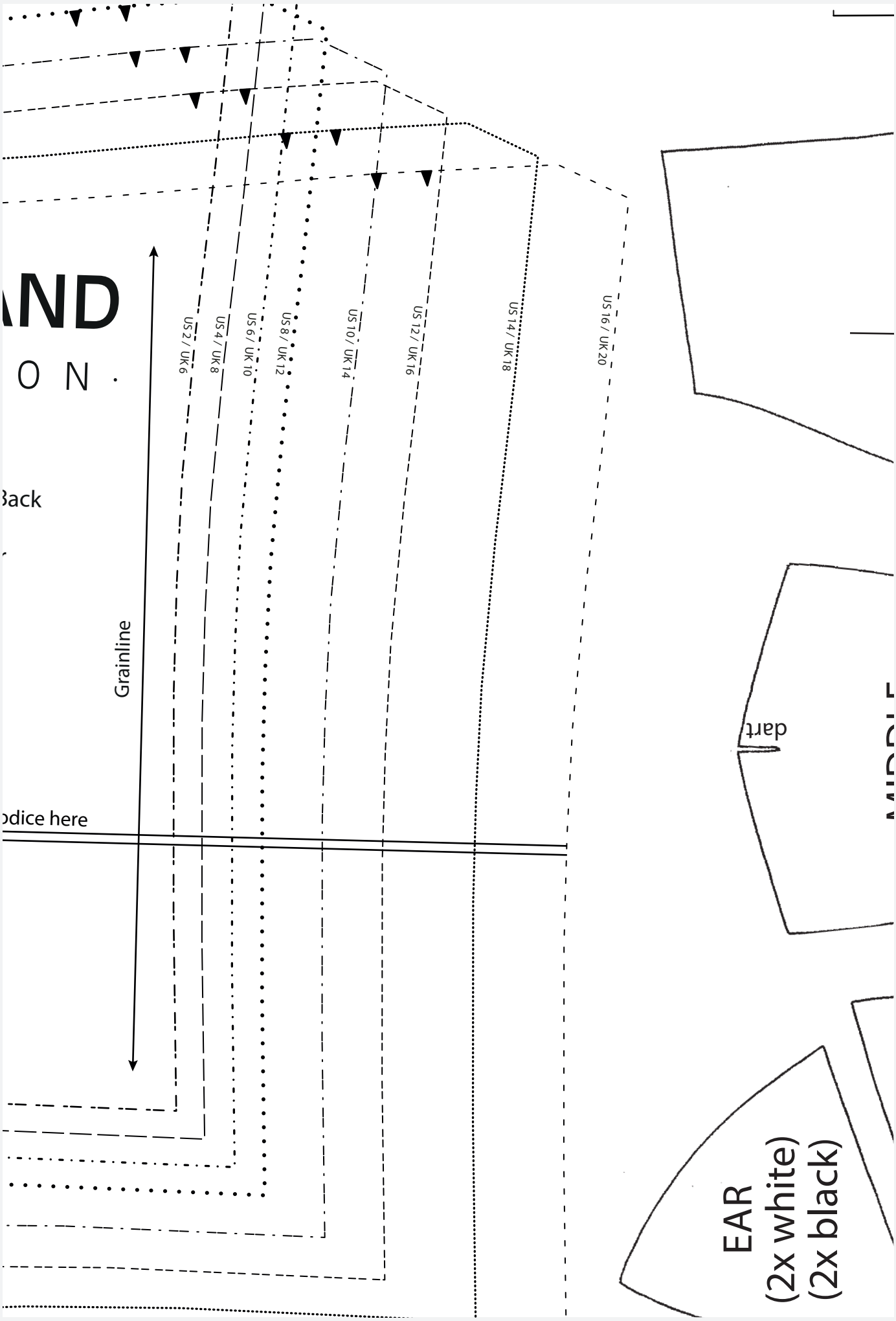
Simply sewing
FRESH IDEAS WITH FABRIC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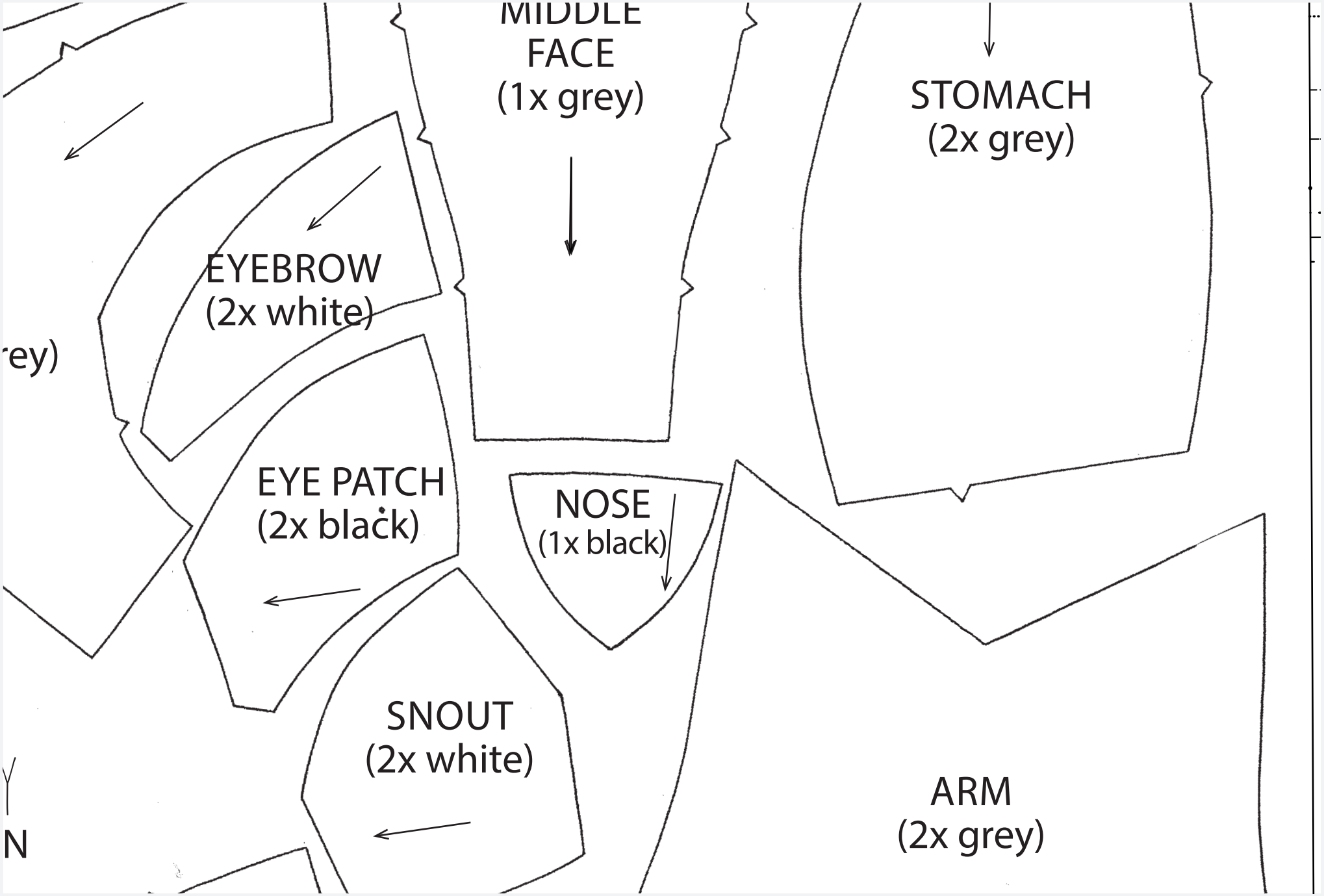
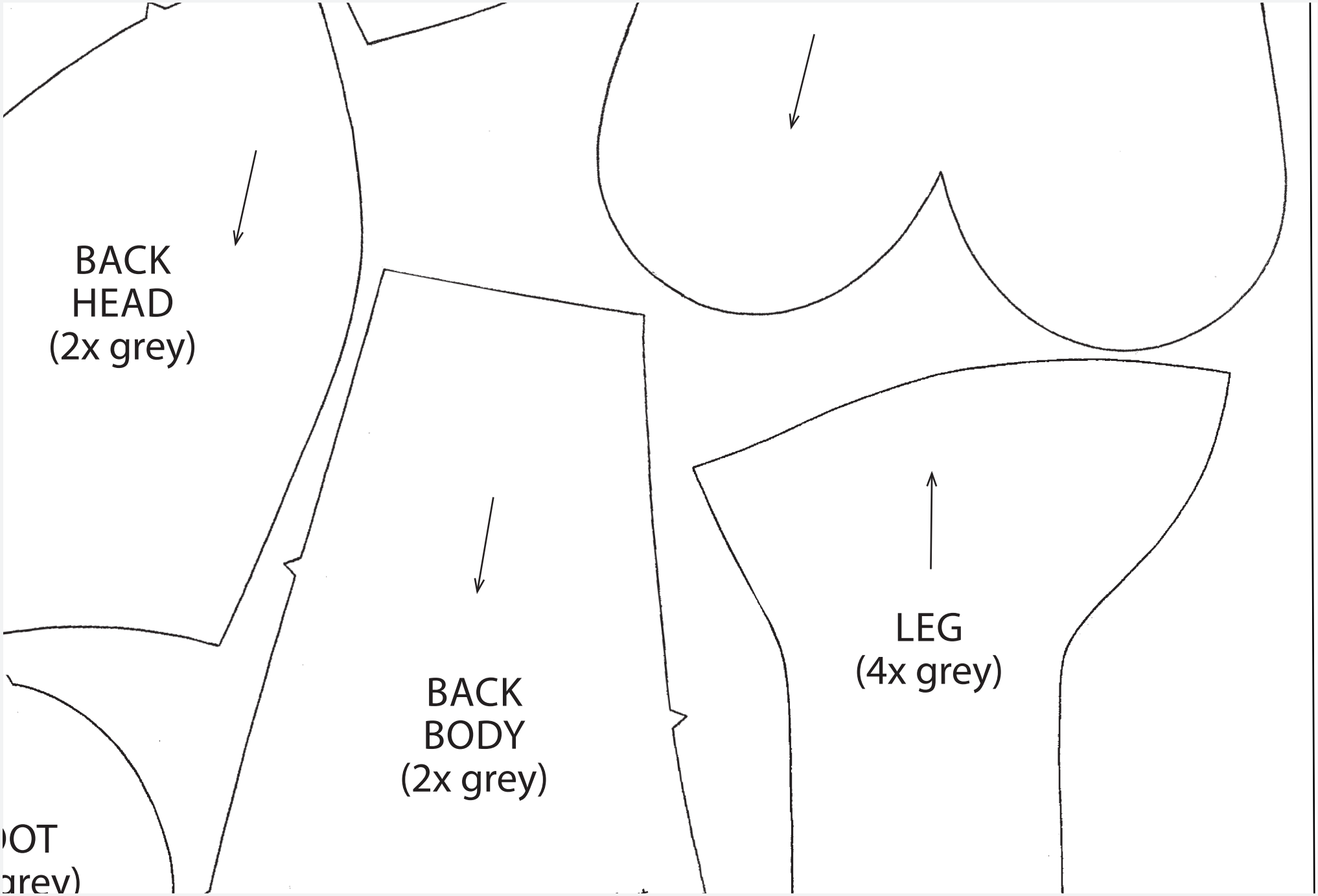
(2x white)
(2x black)


MIDDLE
FACE
(1x grey)
STOMACH
(2x grey)
EYEBROW
(2x white)
EYE PATCH
(2x black)
NOSE
(1x black)
SNOUT
(2x white)
ARM
(2x grey)


BACK
HEAD
(2x grey)
BACK
BODY
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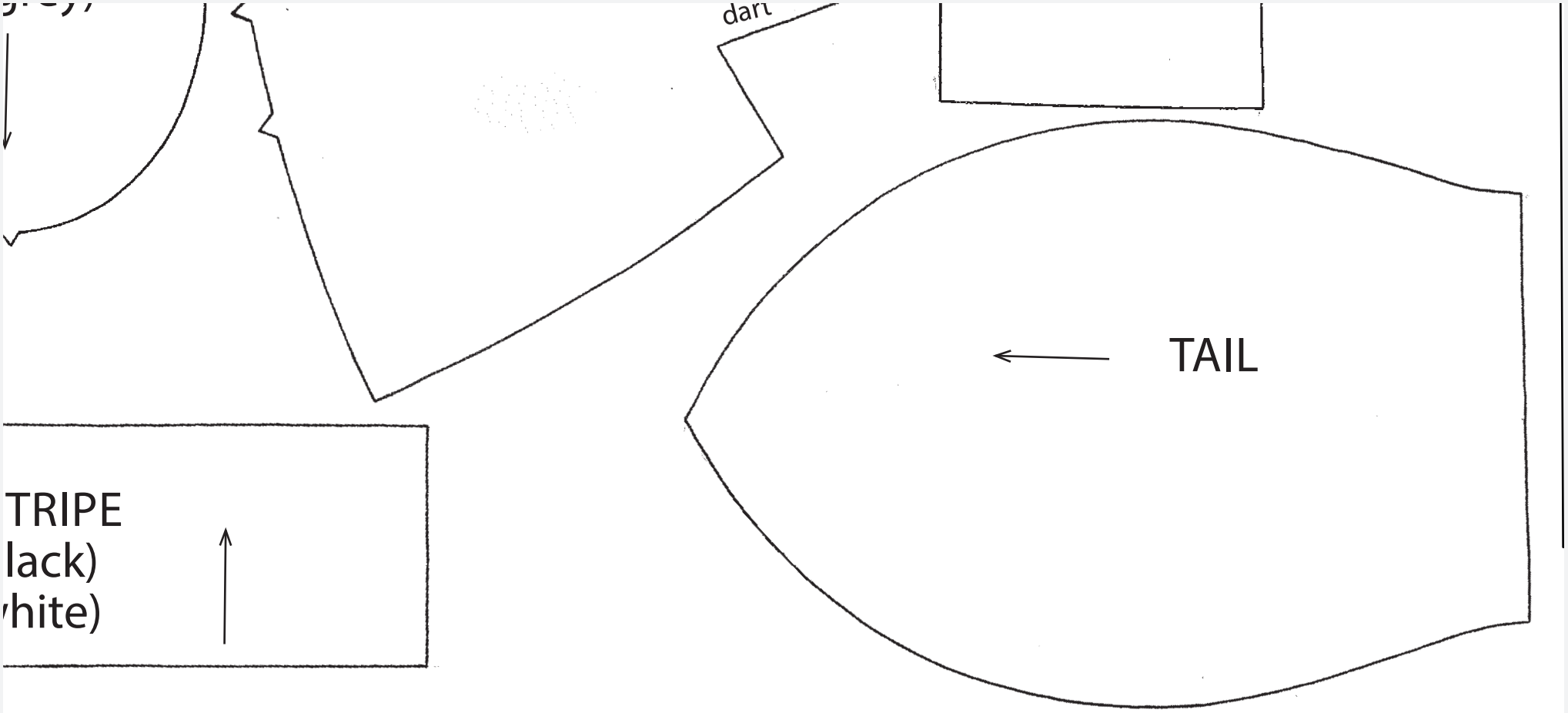
(4x grey)
OOT
grey)



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SEW ALONG

BHL DRESS

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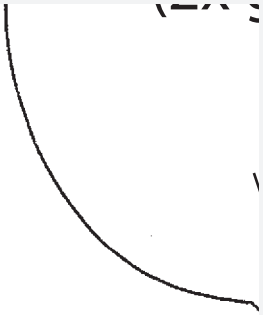

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